

Region 10 News Clips

Jan. 27 – 31, 2020

[[HYPERLINK \l "_Associated_Press"](#)]

The city of Delta Junction and two businesses will pay penalties for operating injection wells that could have leached contaminants into drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Wednesday. Class V injection wells provide for the injection of fluids into the ground, according to the EPA. Low-tech versions rely on gravity for drainage. Examples include gas stations or car washes where service floor drains direct fluids to a septic system.

[[HYPERLINK \l "_Capital_Press"](#)]

Eight state and national health and environment groups are asking the EPA to take emergency action because they say Oregon regulators have failed to curb nitrate contamination in drinking water sources near large dairies and feedlots. The groups filed a Safe Drinking Water Act petition with the EPA, saying the contamination presents “an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of the residents of the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon.” It asks for six specific actions, including supplying free drinking water to affected residents, and banning any new dairies or feedlots from opening in the area — which includes Hermiston, Boardman and Irrigon — until nitrate concentrations fall.

[[HYPERLINK \l "_East_Oregonian"](#)]

A coalition of activist groups, Stand Up to Factory Farms, filed a petition with the Environmental Protection Agency asking the agency to take emergency action to address nitrate levels in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. The area, which was established in 1990 in response to elevated nitrate levels in the groundwater, covers 550 square miles of northwestern Umatilla County and northern Morrow County. Among the petition’s requested actions is banning all new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permits in the affected area, which would block Easterday Farms from its plans to open a dairy on the site of the former Lost Valley Farm mega-dairy outside of Boardman.

[[HYPERLINK \l "_Idaho_Statesman"](#)]

The Trump administration on Thursday ended federal protection for many of the nation's millions of miles of streams, arroyos and wetlands, a sweeping environmental rollback that could leave the waterways more vulnerable to pollution from development, industry and farms. The policy change, signed by heads of the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, narrows the types of waterways that qualify for federal protection under the half-century-old Clean Water Act. Thursday's changes to the clean water rule have long been sought by builders, oil and gas developers, farmers and others.

[[HYPERLINK \l "_Oregonian"](#)]

The Trump administration lifted federal protections Thursday for some of the nation’s millions of miles of streams, arroyos and wetlands, completing one of its most far-reaching environmental rollbacks. U.S. Rep. Greg Walden hailed the change, saying that he’d heard from Oregonians in his rural congressional district that the earlier regulations put in place during the Obama administration were “burdensome.” “For years, farmers and ranchers across Oregon have expressed their concerns to me about the heavy-handed Obama-era definition of Waters of the United States,” Walden said in a prepared statement.

Associated Press

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/northwest/city-2-businesses-reach-clean-water-settlements-with-epa/>"]

City, 2 businesses reach clean water settlements with EPA

January 22, 2020

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Columbian

[[HYPERLINK "https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jan/16/epa-petition-seeks-action-on-tainted-drinking-water/"](https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jan/16/epa-petition-seeks-action-on-tainted-drinking-water/)]

EPA petition seeks action on tainted drinking water. Groups want action on nitrates from dairies
January 21, 2020

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East Oregonian

[HYPERLINK "https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/activists-petition-epa-to-step-in-on-groundwater-emergency-in/article_d7588b8a-38b3-11ea-b6c9-672ddf79c426.html"]

Activists petition EPA to step in on groundwater 'emergency' in Umatilla, Morrow counties

January 18, 2020

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Idaho Statesman

[[HYPERLINK "https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/business/article239554213.html"](https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/business/article239554213.html)]

Trump removes protections for waterways, aiding developers

January 23, 2020

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Oregonian

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2020/01/walden-cheers-trumps-move-to-lift-water-protections.html>"]

Oregon Congressman Greg Walden cheers Trump's move to lift water protections

January 23, 2020

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